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23 MAR 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[REDACTED]
Deputy Inspector General

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VIA:

[REDACTED]
DDP Representative to the Agency Publications Board

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SUBJECT:

Press Comment Distribution

1. This memorandum answers your inquiry about the distribution of Press Comment. This 4 times a week, 40 page publication originated in FI in 1952; when it was transferred to CA Staff in late 1959 it was reoriented to serve primarily field station needs by greater use of articles in depth (i.e. editorial, feature and background, as over against news of current but passing concern) and of material from foreign publications.

2. Additional requests for Press Comment always pose a problem of slow but steady increase in total distribution, in spite of the care exercised in screening such requests. In the last effort to reduce distribution and to avoid asking Printing Services to increase the total production once again, recipients were queried to determine their use of and need for the publication in their direct official tasks. As a result of this effort in November 1965, the number of listed subscribers was reduced from [REDACTED]. The reduction took place in headquarters desks of the DDP, DDI and DDS. The number of copies sent to the State Department mainly (INR) changed downward from 22 to 21. Request for Press Comment for certain officials was made by the Department of State several years ago on the grounds that it would provide substantial support for their research -- a view which has been borne out in practice. These copies are used by Department analysts and are not disseminated further. Press Comment is not distributed to any other government agency.

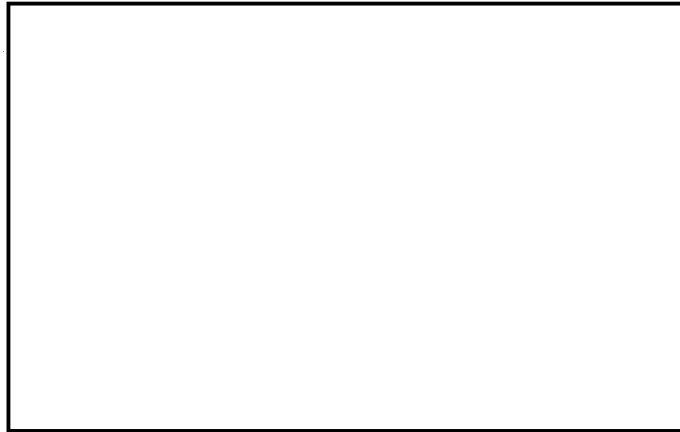
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3. Current distribution of Press Comment is as follows:

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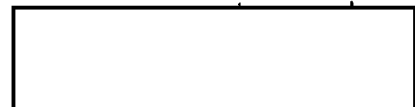
[/*largest single recipients
are ORR, OCI and OTR/

4. In periodic checks made by CA [redacted] to determine the usefulness and criticisms of the guidance and support material it sends to the field stations, Press Comment is the publication most frequently mentioned as being irreplaceable. Debriefings of case officers in headquarters (on PCS or TDY) almost invariably result in spontaneous remarks on the value of Press Comment in providing information and support essential to their propaganda and political operations.

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5. A copy of a special issue on treatment of the Ghanaian coup by indigenous papers is attached. Special issues are published infrequently but on events where backup material and attribution on a significant event is considered of operational value.

1 Attachment
Special Issue Press Comment



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CORD MEYER, JR.
Chief
Covert Action Staff

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